

## **Youth Investment Council Meeting**

### **Thursday, November 6, 2014 9:00am**

**Present:** Ivan Adorno, David Blevins, Victoria Gorman, Bertalan Kormann, June Launay, Ushindi Lewis, Susan Pasternack, Harriet Slonim, Amanda Whelan

**Staff:** Kevin Kurdziel, Jody Bramson, Rick DeJesus, Janice Alexander, Nicole Joseph

Jody Bramson, Youth One Stop Manager, began the meeting with the introduction of all present members and guests.

#### **Approval of minutes from the August 19, 2014 Meeting**

Susan Pasternack motioned to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2014 YIC meeting as distributed previously by email and David Blevins seconded. The vote was called and the motion passed to approve the minutes as written.

#### **Introduction of Susan Pasternack**

Ms. Bramson presented Susan Pasternack from Raritan Bay Medical Center as the new Chairperson for the YIC.

#### **2014 – 2015 Calendars**

Ms. Bramson reported that Nicole Joseph, the MCWAG Coordinator, helped to update a lot of the information in the 2014-2015 calendar. She informed the YIC members that Nicole and Ricky DeJesus delivered all the calendars to all the 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Middlesex County school districts. The information listed in the calendars is for college bound careers and trade type careers. 9<sup>th</sup> graders do not dream of becoming a Certified Home Health Aide, Nurse's Aide or a Maintenance Man, so those occupations were removed and replaced with Physical Therapist Assistant, Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, Sales Representatives and Certified Lab Technician. There weren't any changes to careers in Information Technology or Business.

#### **Performance Measures**

Ms. Bramson reported that the youth program did very well and passed all their performance measures for 2013 – 2014 program year.

#### **Common Measures %'s of State Plan**

Youth Placement	98.81%
Youth Credential (HSE diploma or Industry Recognized Credential)	111.11%
Literacy/Numeracy Gains	99.18%.

### **WIA/WIOA Proposed Changes for Youth**

Ms. Bramson reported that effective July 1, 2015 the federal reauthorization of WIA (Workforce Investment Act) had been approved and will now be renamed WIOA (Workforce Investment Opportunity Act). The WIOA proposed changes for Youth includes:

- Replacing the Literacy/Numeracy common measure and replacing it with a Skills Attainment Measure (to be defined).
- Under WIOA 20% of all the youth funds will have to be used for Work Experience.
- Reported that as of July 1, 2015 the age range for Youth will change from 16 – 21 to 16 - 24.
- Income will no longer be considered for eligibility for entrance into WIOA programs if the youth have dropped out of school and need to attain a High School Equivalency diploma
- Income eligibility may also be determined if the youth is giving free or reduced school lunch or if living in an area identified as high poverty.

### **Work Experience Audit (Preliminary)**

Ms. Bramson reported that verbal confirmation was given by the State that we passed the audit conducted this summer for Work Experience (written confirmation will be sent). The monitor was very impressed with the quality of the worksites, especially Raritan Bay Hospital and Crown Rehabilitation Center.

### **Status High School Equivalency Examination**

The new HSE testing centers have shown some improvement but there continue to be some issues disseminating test results in a timely fashion. It is now taking three weeks to receive the students' scores. Ushindi Lewis from NJ Youth Corps of Middlesex County stated that they are receiving the students' results back in two weeks. Ms. Bramson reported that Middlesex County College is no longer receiving the students' test scores. The students are now solely responsible to report the results to the program and to deliver a copy of the transcript stating their results. The testing centers are working with MCC to resolve this. Ms. Lewis reported that an Administrator at the New Brunswick testing center receives the students' scores and forward the results to the students.

Since July 1 until present, 11 students have passed the HSE examination. She informed the YIC members that the MCC Program is doing very well and the WIA Youth Program is planning another graduation for Spring 2015.

## **New Program Year: Status of Five Programs**

### **MCC Work Readiness:**

There are a total of 14 participants in the Work Readiness program including 3 carry-ins. There are 11 new participants.

MCC Work Readiness program is having major issues in recruiting students for the program this year and has added another cycle this year due to low enrollments.

### **MCC Perth Amboy GED:**

There are a total of 26 participants in the Perth Amboy GED program including 4 carry-ins. There are 22 new participants.

### **MCC Carteret GED:**

There are a total of 18 participants in the Carteret GED program including 10 carry-ins. There are 8 new participants.

### **Perth Amboy MC4YOU**

There were a total of 22 carry-overs in the MC4YOU program.

### **New Brunswick MC4YOU**

Juan DeJesus, MC4YOU New Brunswick Youth Coordinator, reported there are a total of 25 participants in the program including 17 carry-overs. There are 8 new participants.

### **MCWAG Report**

Nicole Joseph, MCWAG Coordinator, reported there were a total of 10 participants in the program including 7 carry-ins. There are 3 new participants in the program. There are 3 participants on a worksite. Ms. Joseph reported 2 participants finished their first 3 months and were successfully employed at the end of the MCWG program; 1 Physical Therapy Assistant and 1 Teacher's Assistant. 4 new participants will be going to the MCWAG panel interview and if accepted an orientation will be scheduled for November.

### **Need for Employers**

Ms. Bramson asked the YIC members for recommendations and/or referrals for any employers that would be willing to offer worksites in the following areas: Pharmacy Technicians, Electricians, and Heating/Ventilation/Cooling/ and Plumbing fields for the MCWAG program. They should contact Nicole Joseph, MCWAG Coordinator, with any referrals.

## **Industry Tours**

There will be four industry tours scheduled for Program year 2014–2015. The first Industry Tour was on October 8, 2014 at Parkside Industries which was very successful. The next Industry tour will be a visit to PSE&G on December 16, 2014 with two more to be planned in the spring.

## **Recruitment**

The Youth Calendars for year 2014–2015 were updated, completed and distributed to 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Middlesex County school districts. The Youth Yellow Pages were updated with new websites added and printing is scheduled once the Board of Freeholders information is confirmed is updated and confirmed for this year. The 411 Informational Flyer has been updated with new websites added.

Ms. Bramson asked the YIC members if they had any recommendations on any places or school districts that offer HSE assistance to students.

Mr. Kurdziel informed the YIC members that Middlesex County website is being updated and will be available in mid-November.

## **Announcements**

Ms. Bramson reported that the youth program served 170 youth during the 2013–2014 program year. From July 1, 2014 until present the Youth program is serving 115 participants and there are 18 participants in ITA's.

Ms. Bramson reported Middlesex County school district statistics that 490 students dropped out of school from year 2005 – 2006. A total of 245 students dropped out of Middlesex County school districts from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. From July 2, 2014 to the present 62 students dropped out and, of those, 25 students were from New Brunswick.

The Youth department will be mailing information about the WIA Youth Programs and services to all the students who dropped out of school from July, 2013 until present and the Youth Staff is delivering drop out packets to area high schools as well as alternative schools, community and health centers.

On October 10, 2014 the Youth Staff set up a table and handed out information about the WIA Youth Programs and services at the Aging-Out Conference for DCP&P. The Youth Staff also attended a conference for Healthier New Brunswick on November 5, 2014.

Jody Bramson adjourned the meeting.

**The next YIC meeting: February 3, 2015, 9:00 AM.**